HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

April 3, 2013

Present: Commissioners David Harburg, Mackenzie DeLong, Esther Griffin, Rob Solomon, Dan Vi Nguyen, Jamila Kisses, Sheri Struk, Alternate Commissioners Anna Petrov, Griff Masters and City Staff Liaison Bob Crocker and City Council Liaison Cate Arnold

Absent: Commissioner Juanita Villarreal

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm. Minutes of the March 6, 2013, meeting were reviewed and approved as amended. Commissioner Struk moved to approve and Commissioner Harburg seconded. Passed.

Communications from the City Staff Liaison: None

Communications from the City Council Liaison: Councilor Arnold briefly discussed that the City Council has received comments from residents that City Council makes ceremonial resolutions on issues not pertaining to the City itself.

Guests: Rob Hadley and Kathy Cordell from the Oregon Coalition for Humanity Mr. Hadley and Ms. Cordell approached the Commission seeking support and perhaps to adopt a resolution for the City of Beaverton to purchase electronics containing conflict-free minerals. They discussed the disturbing issues in Democratic Republic of Congo regarding conflict-free minerals and how the City of Beaverton can be one of the first cities in the Pacific Northwest to demonstrate their commitment to peace in Congo. Conflict in Congo is driven by purchasing electronics (cell phones, etc) that contain minerals (tungsten, tin, gold and tantalum) from mines that are overseen by groups illegally making profit from them (using slave labor, etc).

Commissioner Solomon gave the Commission an update on Mr. Johnson, who came to the HRAC meeting a couple months back to express concern about the Beaverton Police Department. Commissioner Solomon reported that Mr. Johnson met with Chief Spalding and Commissioner Solomon and Mr. Johnson was thankful for support of Chief and the Human Rights Advisory Commission.

Commissioner Solomon reported he has not heard back from Mr. McGill and there is nothing new to report.

Project updates:

Creative Expression Contest (CEC): Entries were voted on by all commissioners and the winners and runner-ups were established.

Grade School:

1st Place: Carson Cummins, Findley Elementary, 5th grade, essay Runner-up: Gareth Cooper, Findley Elementary, 5th grade, essay Runner-up: Han Yun, Jacob Wismer Elem, 5th grade, drawing

Middle School:

1st Place: Torrie Webb, Valley Catholic, 8th grade, video

Runner-up: Abha Joshi, International School of Beaverton, 8th grade, essay

Runner-up: Joanna Hoang, International School of Beaverton, 8th grade, essay

High School:

1st place: Colette Parry, Southridge High School, 11th grade, poem

The CEC reception and awards presentation will take place on Tuesday, May 14th. Reception at 6:00pm and award presentation during City Council meeting

Diversity Taskforce Update: Commissioner Solomon and Commissioner Nguyen reported they attended March's Diversity Taskforce meeting to discuss the Human Rights Representative project. At the meeting, they were extended an invitation to attend the Cultural Inclusion Listening Forum on May 18th.

Human Rights Representative: Commissioner Nguyen has had two individuals volunteer for the project; Mariam Ali and Paolo Esteban, APANO bilingual organizer.

Miscellaneous Business:

Commissioner Solomon asked Councilor Arnold to reach out to the City Attorney's Office to move along the process for the ex-officio position with Chief Spalding. Councilor Arnold was also asked to follow up on the issue of Facebook page access for HRAC.

Commission Chair Solomon asked Mr. Crocker to coordinate with Public Information section of the Mayor's Office to issue a press release for the May 14th presentation announcing the Creative Expression winners and runner-ups.

Other Business:

There will be no Cultural Conversation in May as we have a guest speaker from PFLAG. The next Cultural Conversation is set for July and the population has yet to be identified; the Philippine population was offered as a possible community to invite.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kisses; seconded by Commissioner Struk. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.